

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries
Sent: 01 April 2020 21:11
Cc: Carolyn Terry, EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager
<Carolyn.Terry@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 1 April 2020

Dear All

Please find a summary of recent key updates for your information:-

The **Guidance for parents and carers** has been updated -
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm_source=e906c864-efbc-4515-b659-64674f4b5d6a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Change made - Added section on parental support for keeping children safe online. Time updated 31 March 2020.

FEEE Funding and Furloughing Staff

You may be aware that there appears to be some conflicting advice on whether a setting can still claim FEEE for the Summer 2020 term if they have taken the option to furlough their staff

The Department for Education guidance for early years providers published on 24 March 2020 states "Providers can access [the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme] while continuing to be paid the free early entitlements funding via local authorities."

The general guidance for all businesses published by HMRC on 26 March 2020 stated: "Where employers receive public funding for staff costs, and that funding is continuing, we expect employers to use that money to continue to pay staff in the usual fashion – and correspondingly not furlough them. This also applies to non-public sector employers who receive public funding for staff costs."

ECC have raised this conflict as an urgent query with the DfE, and we understand some of the national sector membership organisations have also raised this issue and will update as soon as we receive a response. In the meantime, we are continuing to make the FEEE funding payments as we recognise the sector is expecting to receive the FEEE funding. Depending on the outcome from the DfE and HMRC, ECC will work with you to find solutions if claiming the FEEE funding and furloughing your staff continues to be an issue

Interim FEEE Funding Payments

We have instigated the interim FEEE Funding payment run process, and we anticipate that payments **should** be received into your bank accounts by Friday 17 April 2020. Please note we are doing everything to get the payments to you all as soon as possible, but are unable to guarantee an actual payment date due to the size of the payment run and different bank clearance timelines

Small Business Grants

The Small Business Grant funds should now be available through the local councils. There is eligibility criteria, which is generally linked to the business rates a business pays. Some councils are writing to all businesses whilst others have an online system.

Please find listed below the links for each of the twelve district, borough and city councils and information on how the grants will be distributed, so you can make direct contact yourselves:

- <https://www.basildon.gov.uk/businessrates>
- https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200128/advice_and_environment/1273/coronavirus/3
- <https://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=542>
- <https://www.castlepoint.gov.uk/business-rates/>
- <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-guidance-for-businesses-and-employers/>
- <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/coronavirus/businesses/business-rates/>
- <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/coronavirus/support-for-businesses/business-rates-advice/>
- <https://www.harlow.gov.uk/coronavirus/businesses>
- https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20076/business_rates/9744/covid-19_business_rate_holidays_and_grants
- <https://www.rochford.gov.uk/business-rates-support-during-covid-19>
- <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/covid19-business-grants-fund>

Additional FAQs

Please find attached responses to some further queries we have received for your information.

Operation Shield

Operation shield is the name given to the work to support the needs of those people with medical conditions that make them most vulnerable to serious complications from COVID-19, so that these people can remain at home. If shielded people have good social networks that they can rely on, then that will be possible. If they don't then Operation Shield has created systems to step in to help. Please see attached further information on the cohorts of individuals in scope of this work for information and how they are being supported to access food and other essentials.

Please continue to share any queries you have and we will do our best to provide you with answers to these.

Best wishes

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

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Please note my normal working days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

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